

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 11-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 11 and 22-24 are amended; and new Claims 25-28 are added by the present amendment. No new matter is added. Support for the changes to Claims 11 and 22-24 and the addition of new Claims 25-28 is provided by at least Applicant's Specification at page 3, lines 9-13. As the foregoing amendments and new Claims 25-28 merely clarify the off-field view (as previously claimed) in light of the Examiner's comments,¹ those amendments are not believed to raise new issues requiring further search or consideration. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of those amendments.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 11, 13, 17, and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,692,394 to Bauer II in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,812,911 to Ohshima et al. (hereinafter "Ohshima"); Claims 12 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Bauer II and Ohshima in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,667,226 to Glenn; Claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC. 103(a) as unpatentable over Bauer II, Ohshima, and Glenn in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,758,905 to Okada et al. (hereinafter "Okada"); and Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Bauer II and Ohshima in view of Okada.

Addressing now the rejections of Claims 11-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Bauer II, summarized above, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Though they are different in scope, each of independent Claims 11 and 22-24 recites an off-field view image provided by an optical viewfinder. The off-field view image includes a useful field image detected by photoelectric-effect sensors and a peripheral field image

¹ Office Action, 03/09/2005, page 2, "Applicant's Arguments".

contacting a periphery of the useful field image. The remaining claims depend from Claims 11 and 22-24.

The outstanding Office Action states that Bauer II discloses an optical viewfinder configured to provide an off-field view (as previously claimed). However, Bauer II does not teach an optical viewfinder configured to provide an off-field view image including a useful field image detected by photoelectric-effect sensors and a peripheral field image contacting a periphery of the useful field image. Rather, Bauer II teaches a rotary shutter that periodically reflects and transmits the same image to an eyepiece and film, respectively.² The secondary references, noted above, do not cure this deficiency of Bauer II.

Accordingly, for the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of Claims 11-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Bauer II, summarized above, be withdrawn.

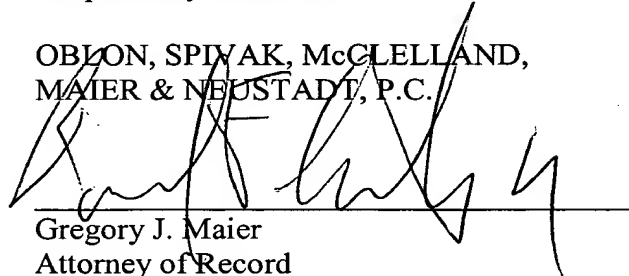
New dependent Claims 25-28 are added to further clarify the off-field view image of Claims 1 and 22-24, respectively. Accordingly, for the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 25-28 patentably define over Bauer II in view of secondary references.

² Bauer II, Abstract.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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